

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7-8, 10-15, 17, 19-32, 34-40, 42-47, 49, 51-61, 63-69, 71-76, 78, 80-87 and 89-100, are pending herein. Claims 16, 48 and 77 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 6, 9, 18, 33, 41, 50, 62, 70, 79 and 88 were cancelled previously without prejudice or disclaimer.

1. Initially, the Applicants thank Examiner Patterson for the courtesies extended their undersigned attorney and Dr. R. Radhakrishnan, during a personal interview on September 14, 2006. The substance of the points discussed in the interview is provided below.

2. In the Final Rejection dated March 24, 2006, Claims 1-5, 7-8 10-17, 19-26, 95 and 98-100 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Christensen (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2003/0216815 A1) and Fuchs et al. (U.S. Patent 6,527,972), and Claims 27-32, 34-40, 42-49, 51-61, 63-69, 71-78, 80-87, 89-94, and 96-97 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Demon (U.S. Patent 5,813,142) and Christensen ('815) and Fuchs et al ('972).

As noted in the interview, Fuchs et al. is directed to magnetorheological polymer gels for various uses. However, Fuchs et al. fails to disclose a coating of at least one member selected from the group consisting of a ceramic material, a metallic material, and a combination thereof, for the core particles. In particular, Fuchs et al. discloses the use of coated particles in a polymeric gel as a carrier medium. The polymeric gel must have an off-state viscosity of between 20 and

5,000,000 cP (see Column 8, lines 32-39 of Fuchs et al.). The particles in Fuchs et al. are coated with a surfactant and polymeric gel primarily to make it compatible with the matrix, which is also a polymeric gel, and to ensure uniform distribution of particles in the polymer gel matrix. The particles in Fuchs et al., therefore, cannot be coated with a metal, ceramic or a combination thereof, which would make it difficult to disperse the particles in a polymer gel since the coating will not be compatible with the polymer gel matrix. In addition, a metal or ceramic coating on Fuchs magnetic particles could possibly lower the off-state viscosity to less than 20 cP.

It was agreed in the interview that if the claims were amended for the recited coating, the pending rejections over the art of record would be overcome.

The claims have been amended in accordance with the agreement reached in the interview. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims 1-5, 7-8, 10-15, 17, 19-32, 34-40, 42-47, 49, 51-61, 63-69, 71-76, 78, 80-87 and 89-100 are all allowable. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the pending rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Christensen ('815), Fuchs ('972) and Demon ('142) all be withdrawn.

PROPRIETARY INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge review of the material submitted via the Proprietary Information Disclosure Statement filed on February 25, 2004.

The Examiner is further respectfully requested to review and consider and make of record the reference cited via the Eighth Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement, being filed herewith. In this regard, the Examiner is respectfully requested to return an initialed copy of Form 1449 along with the next communication in this case.

CONCLUSION

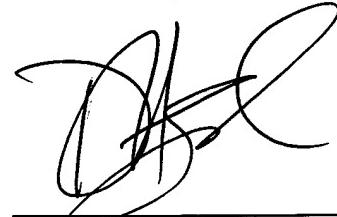
For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-5, 7-8, 10-15, 17, 19-32, 34-40, 42-47, 49, 51-61, 63-69, 71-76, 78, 80-87 and 89-100, are all in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of all of the rejections over Christensen ('815), Fuchs et al. (U.S. Patent 6,527,972) and Demon (U.S. Patent 5,813,142), and allowance of these claims are earnestly solicited.

It is believed that no additional fee is due for this submission. However, should that determination be incorrect, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 01-0433, and notify the undersigned in due course.

Appl. No.: 10/624,519
Amdt. After Final Rejection dated September 22, 2006
Reply to Office Action of March 24, 2006

Should the Examiner have any questions or wish to discuss further this matter, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



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